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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (~~previously presented~~currently amended): An electrical connector, comprising:

a plurality of electrically conducting members;

a first electrically conducting plate; and

a second electrically conducting plate positioned opposite to and oriented substantially in parallel with the first electrically conducting plate; wherein

a first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members are electrically connected to a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates and a second group of the plurality of electrically conducting members are not electrically connected to either of the first and second electrically conducting plates; and

at least one electrically conducting member of the first group is adjacent to at least one electrically conducting member of the second group; wherein

at least one of the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members is substantially identical to at least one of the second group of the plurality of electrically conducting members.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, wherein the plurality of electrically conducting members are arranged in two rows which are substantially parallel to a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The connector of claim 21, wherein the first

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and second groups of electrically conducting members are arranged along each of the two rows.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, wherein a first portion of each of the electrically conducting members is located between the first and second electrically conducting plates and a second portion of each of at least the first group of electrically conducting members is located outside of a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, wherein each of the first and second electrically conducting plates is electrically connectable to a ground potential.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, wherein each of the first and second electrically conducting plates is electrically connected to a ground potential.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, further comprising a plurality of fingers arranged to make electrical contact between the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members and the respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The connector of claim 26, wherein the plurality of fingers are disposed along an outer surface of the respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The connector of claim 26, wherein the plurality of fingers are part of the respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

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Claim 29 (previously presented): The connector of claim 26, wherein the plurality of fingers include a first plurality of fingers and a second plurality of fingers, the first plurality of fingers being arranged to make electrical contact between the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members and the respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates, and the second plurality of fingers being arranged so as not to make electrical contact between the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members and the respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The connector of claim 29, wherein each of the first and second plurality of fingers are arranged along each of two different rows.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The connector of claim 29, wherein each of the first and second plurality of fingers are arranged along each of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The connector of claim 29, wherein said first plurality of fingers that electrically connect a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates to a corresponding one of the plurality of electrically conducting members are bent towards the corresponding one of the plurality of electrically conducting members to make electrical contact with a ground potential.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The connector of claim 29, wherein the first plurality of fingers are adapted to be selectively bent inwardly away from a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The connector of claim 29, wherein the first plurality of fingers are selectively bent away from the oppositely positioned electrically conducting plate to produce a customized pattern of grounded electrical contacts.

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Claim 35 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, wherein in the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members, a portion of each of the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members is in physical contact with a portion of the respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The connector of claim 20, wherein the electrically conducting members are adapted to be coupled to the surface of a printed circuit board.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The connector of Claim 20, wherein the second group of electrically conducting members which are not electrically connected to either of the at least two electrically conductive plates are arranged to transmit signals through the connector.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The connector of Claim 20, further comprising a plurality of fingers arranged to contact a surface of the one of the at least two electrically conductive plates so as to connect the first group of electrically conducting members to the respective one of the first and second electrically conductive plates.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The connector of Claim 20, further comprising an insulated housing, wherein the first and second electrically conductive plates are disposed on opposite outer surfaces of the insulated housing.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The connector of Claim 39, wherein the first group electrically conducting members are electrically connected to the respective one of the first and second electrically conductive plates at an outer surface of the insulated housing.

Claim 41 (currently amended): An electrical connector, comprising:
a plurality of electrically conducting members arranged along a row;

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at least one electrically conducting plate disposed substantially parallel to the row of electrically conducting members; and

~~a plurality of connection portions arranged so as to electrically connect the at least one electrically conducting plate to a first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members, and a second group of the plurality of electrically conducting members not being electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate; wherein~~

the plurality of conducting members, the at least one electrically conducting plate, and the plurality of connection portions are arranged such that a first group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate and a second group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to not be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate after the completion of the manufacturing of the electrical connector.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein the plurality of connection portions that electrically connect the at least one electrically conducting plate to the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members are arranged to be in physical contact with each of the at least one electrically conducting plate and the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein the plurality of connection portions are elongated fingers that are disposed on an outer surface of the at least one electrically conducting plate.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein at least one electrically conducting member of the first group is adjacent to at least one electrically conducting member of the second group.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein the plurality of connection portions are arranged along a row that is substantially parallel to the row

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of the plurality of electrically conducting members.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, further comprising another electrically conducting plate, wherein the plurality of electrically conducting members are arranged in two rows which are substantially parallel to a respective one of the electrically conducting plates.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The connector of claim 46, wherein a first portion of each of the electrically conducting members is located between the two electrically conducting plates and a second portion of at least the first group of electrically conducting members is located outside of a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The connector of claim 46, wherein each of the electrically conducting plates is electrically connectable to a ground potential.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The connector of claim 46, wherein each of the electrically conducting plates is electrically connected to a ground potential.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein the plurality of connection portions are part of the at least one electrically conducting plate.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein said plurality of connection portions that electrically connect the at least one electrically conducting plate to the first group of electrically conducting members are bent towards the plurality of electrically conducting members to make electrical contact with a ground potential.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein the plurality of connection portions are adapted to be selectively bent inwardly towards the plurality

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of electrically conducting members.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein the plurality of connection portions are selectively bent away from the at least one electrically conducting plate to produce a customized pattern of grounded electrical contacts.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The connector of claim 41, wherein the electrically conducting members are adapted to be coupled to the surface of a printed circuit board.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The connector of Claim 41, wherein the second group of electrically conducting members which are not electrically connected to either of the at least ~~two one~~ electrically conductive ~~plates~~ plate ~~are is~~ arranged to transmit signals through the connector.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The connector of Claim 41, further comprising an insulated housing, wherein the at least one conductive plate is disposed on an outer surface of the insulated housing.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The connector of Claim 56, wherein the first group electrically conducting members are electrically connected to the at least one electrically conductive plate at an outer surface of the insulated housing.